



**From:** [Tafoya, Diane -FS](#)  
**To:** [Shade, Kevin](#); [Cook, Brenda](#)  
**Cc:** [Purcell, Mark](#); [Turner, LaDonna](#); [Tafoya, Diane -FS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Grants Mining District - Federal Partners Call on EPA Action regarding San Mateo Creek Basin (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2017 12:44:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Kevin and Brenda,

Here is some further information on the San Mateo Mine from Steven McDonald, USFS Region 3 On-scene Coordinator:

"The settlement agreement for San Mateo, which was finalized a couple of months ago, does not cover the groundwater. There was more than a year of discussion on that with EPA and DOJ.

We did check for alluvial groundwater at the San Mateo site during our initial study, drilling at five spots with multiple attempts. I was present during the drilling and we encountered no shallow water. Hitting a resistant rock layer at about 50 feet. I didn't think Mr. (b) (6) permitted EPA to drill on his property so wonder what is the EPA's source of data. Our tests of the shallow aquifer at (b) (6) Ranch well did not reveal any cause for concern.

The San Mateo Mine was below the groundwater table and discharged the water to San Mateo Creek. This was before the days they treated the groundwater to remove the radioactive material. So the PRPs might have some liability for their contribution to the shallow groundwater farther downstream.

I assume the deep groundwater at San Mateo has elevated levels of radioactivity due to the presence of uranium mineralization."



**Diane Tafoya, CME, CMA level II**  
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**Caring for the land and serving people**

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**From:** Shade, Kevin [mailto:Shade.Kevin@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** Cook, Brenda <cook.brenda@epa.gov>; Villarreal, Chris <villarreal.chris@epa.gov>; Bill\_Auby@blm.gov; stephen\_spencer@ios.doi.gov; Adam, Kathleen -FS <kadam@fs.fed.us>; Meyer, Matthew <Matthew.Meyer@nrc.gov>; Young, Patrick <young.patrick@epa.gov>; Blake, Johanna MT <jmtblake@usgs.gov>; Tafoya, Diane -FS <dtafoya@fs.fed.us>; susan\_king@ios.doi.gov;

waylon.denny@bia.gov; Robertson, Andrew <ajrobert@usgs.gov>; Tsosie, Bernadette <Bernadette.Tsosie@lm.doe.gov>

**Cc:** Purcell, Mark <purcell.mark@epa.gov>; Turner, LaDonna <turner.ladonna@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Grants Mining District - Federal Partners Call on EPA Action regarding San Mateo Creek Basin (b) (6)

Good morning to all – Attached is a map for reference. This map is draft and we would prefer it not to be shared outside of your respective offices.

Call time – 3:00pm CT – 3:30pm CT

Conference Line:

(b) (6)

Regards,  
Kevin

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Shade, Kevin

**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2017 9:44 AM

**To:** Shade, Kevin; Cook, Brenda; Villarreal, Chris; [Bill\\_Auby@blm.gov](mailto:Bill_Auby@blm.gov); Stephen Spencer; Adam, Kathleen -FS; Meyer, Matthew; Young, Patrick; [jmtblake@usgs.gov](mailto:jmtblake@usgs.gov); [dtafoya@fs.fed.us](mailto:dtafoya@fs.fed.us); [susan\\_king@ios.doi.gov](mailto:susan_king@ios.doi.gov); [waylon.denny@bia.gov](mailto:waylon.denny@bia.gov); Robertson, Andrew; Tsosie, Bernadette

**Cc:** Purcell, Mark; Turner, LaDonna

**Subject:** Grants Mining District - Federal Partners Call on EPA Action regarding San Mateo Creek Basin (b) (6)

**When:** Thursday, December 14, 2017 3:00 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** R6-ConfRm-South-10O15/R6---10th-Floor

**Importance:** High

Conference Line:

(b) (6)

This is an invite to our Five Year Plan federal partners regarding the potential listing of the San Mateo Creek Basin on the National Priorities List based on contamination of the ground water from historical discharges from the ion exchange plants and wet mines. Our NPL Coordinator, Brenda Cook, will provide a summary of the NPL process and the reasons behind the listing. We will be able to respond to any questions and can schedule follow-up conversations as necessary.

EPA Region 6 has recently sent letters to the Pueblo of Acoma and Laguna notifying them of our intentions and offering formal consultation.

We can have individual calls for those that are unable to participate if you wish to do so.

Regards,  
Kevin

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